**Expert Committee on Employment**

5873. SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the High Level Expert Committee for creation of Employment opportunities for educated unemployed constituted on 4th December, 1996 had visited Tripura;

(b) if so, whether the Committee has submitted its report; and

(c) if so, the recommendations thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) The Chairman and Member-Secretary visited the States of North-East.

(b) and (c) The Committee has submitted its Report on 7th May 1997. The recommendations cover various measures, including fiscal concessions, infrastructural improvement, human resource development and institutional arrangements for creating sustainable employment in rural and urban areas of the North-East.

**Bribe by Transporters**

5874. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :
SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Transporters say they pay Rs. 1.2 crore in bribes daily" appearing in 'Indian Express', dated April 5, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) There have been instances where individual Delhi Traffic Police personnel were found involved in malpractices but there is no indication that there exists any organised connivance. During 1996 alone, over 6 lakhs trucks were challaned by Delhi Traffic Police which was almost twice the number challaned durign 1995. Besides, the Delhi Traffic Police carried out a major anti-corruption drive amongst its own men as a result of which 161 Traffic Policemen face departmental inquiries and other 202 officials were transferred to non-sensitive units.

**Corruption in Open Sale Scheme**

5875. SHRI VEERBHADRAM THAMMINENI :
SHRI RAM NAIK :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any request from the Food Corporation of India Employees Unions particularly from Madras, on the issue of open sale of foodgrains vis-a-vis malpractices/corruption;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government on the issues raised by the Union; and

(d) the measures taken by the Government to curb such activities?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD. (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Union in its complaint dated 16.1.1997, addressed to Hon'ble Prime Minister had mainly referred to the press Reports about 'Wheat scandal' and the arrest of some private traders/senior officers in Haryana. The Union has alleged that open sale scheme is benefiting only the traders/millers and consumers' interests are not taken care of, and, therefore, requested to review the open sale scheme as also a thorough probe in the alleged irregularities in open sale in Haryana.

(c) Information was received from the Government of Haryana about irregularities in regard to sale of wheat in Haryana under Open Market Sale Scheme. A case has been registered against the then SRM, FCI, Haryana on 6.1.1997 by the State Police Authorities. The main allegation was that the wheat meant for open sale was allotted by Regional Officer, FCI, Haryana to the traders/profiteers. 2 FCI officials and three other have been arrested. The FCI officials have also been placed under suspension. The services of the then SRM, FCI, Haryana have been repatriated to his parent cadre. The matter is under investigation by the State Police Authorities. The matter has been taken up with CBI also for investigation.

The FCI was authorised to sell wheat in the domestic market during the year 1996-97 within the ceiling prescribed by the Government from time to time. It has since been decided by the Government to stop sale of wheat and rice in the open market beyond 31st March, 1997.